

Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM)
Assumption Project Workgroup Inaugural Call

September 9, 2019
3:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern
Vi GoToMeeting



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Call Agenda

Checking In (15 min)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Work completed since last meeting
- Request for brief updates on assumption



State Sharing on Assumption Efforts (15 min)

- Oregon – Eric Metz and Andrea Celantano
- Minnesota – Les Lemm

Sharing of Strawman Plans and Group Discussion (25 min)

- Review compiled needs information and question, potential gaps
- Identify and prioritize key areas of focus
- Provide feedback on elements of plans (ASWM webpad, webinar series, national dialogue)

Wrap-up/Next Steps (5 min)

Reminder - Enter your time into ASWM's Volunteer Log!

Assumption Project

Potential Topic Categories

- Assumption basics
 - What is it? Why assume? What is the Process?
 - Who has assumed to date? What states are in the process of assuming or considering assumption?
- Exploration of assumption elements
 - Assumable waters
 - Federal consistency
 - Public participation
 - Preparing to regulate – laws and regulations
 - Enforcement authority
- Developing sustainable systems and funding to assume the program
- Building political will for and communicating about assumption
- Developing a complete application

Which could lead to:

Potential Assumption Webinar Series Content

Focus on Peer-to-peer sharing and meeting states/tribes where they are

Webinar 1: Assumption Basics: Who, What, When, Why, How

Webinar 2: Assumption Elements:
What needs to be in place to assume?

Webinar 3: Special Topic: Assumable waters

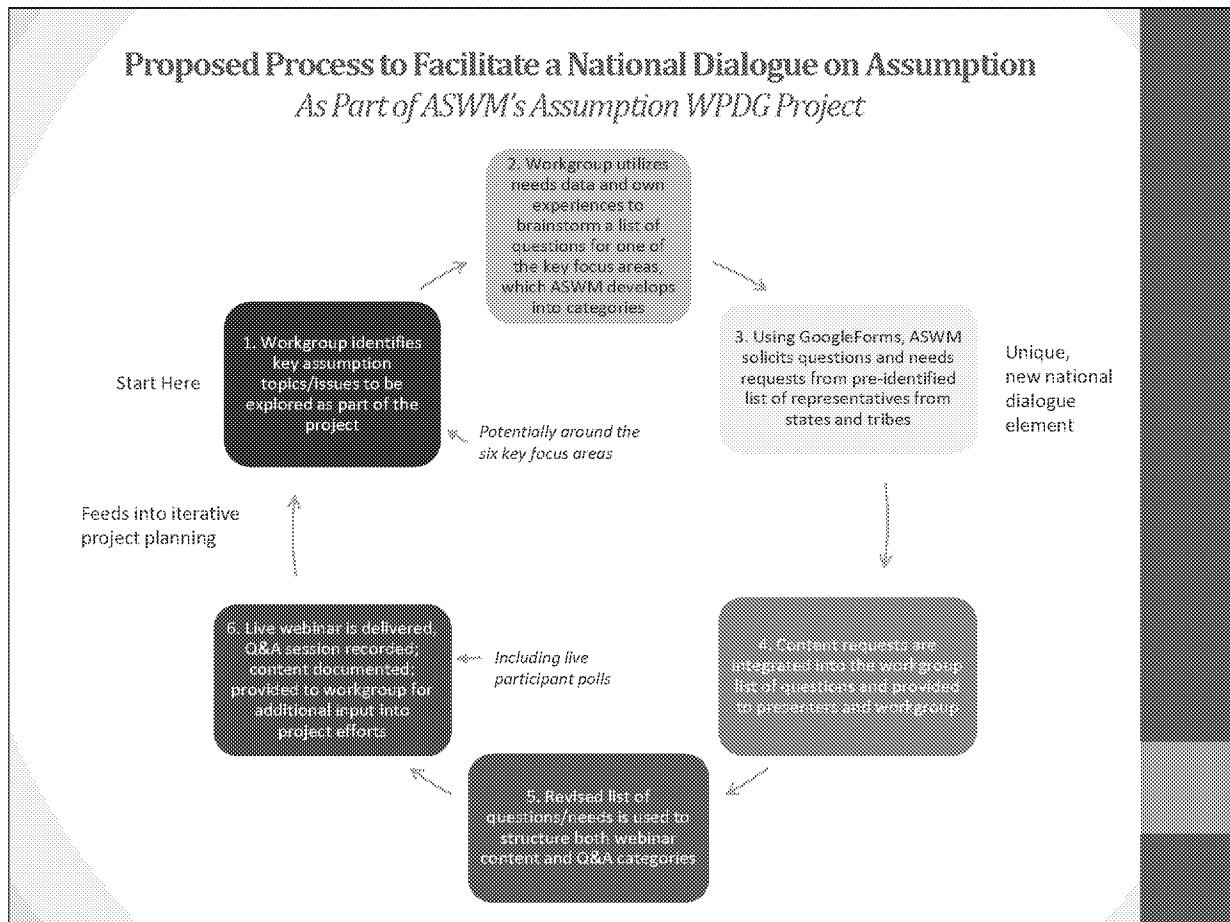
Webinar 4: Special Topic: Federal consistency

Webinar 5: Special Topic: Communications/Public participation

Webinar 6: Special Topic: Developing internal supports

Webinar 7: Special Topic: Enforcement authority

Webinar 8: Developing a complete application



Conduct targeted outreach to ASWM's state and tribal contacts to determine a representative from their state/tribe to be invited to participate in the assumption discussion series.

Representatives will receive ongoing invitations to submit questions and discussion topics, and attend webinars focused on key assumption issues.

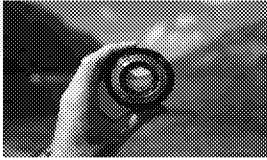
The project's national dialogue element will consist of a continuous flow among workgroup discussions, collection and integration of additional questions and need statements from states and tribes, and engagement with the broader population of webinar participants.

Questions will be gathered ahead of the webinar from states and tribes using GoogleForms, as well as solicited from the project's national workgroup.

Collected questions will be compiled, sorted and shared with the webinar presenters in advance of the webinar to better inform the presentations and format the Q&A session at the end into key themes

Targeted webinars will be delivered, including a 45-minute presentation, followed by a moderated group discussion (approximately 45 minutes) in a Q&A format on the topic.

Additional questions submitted during the webinar would be answered as time permits once all initial state and tribe questions are answered.



Looking Ahead

- **Meetings will be held the 2nd or 3rd Monday of each month (depending on holidays, etc.)**
- Make first entry in ASWM's project volunteer log (logging today's meeting time)
- **Agenda for Next Call (Mid-August)**

Assumption Project Background Slides

(Presented during July 2019 Inaugural Workgroup Call)



Project Overview: Need

Assumption presents an opportunity for states to take a stronger role in the regulation of aquatic resources within their state boundaries.

- Several states are actively working to assess the option to assume and develop assumption applications.
- The number of states interested in assumption may continue to increase in response to the current Administration's efforts to encourage assumption.
- For states largely reliant on 401, going from no state program to assumption is a steep climb
- An emerging area in regulatory planning and implementation



Assumption presents an opportunity for states to take a stronger role in the regulation of aquatic resources within their state boundaries.

Several states are actively working to assess the option to assume and develop assumption applications. Other states are trying to assess their assumable waters and determine if assumption makes financial and regulatory sense. Most are interested in reducing regulatory permitting time. The number of states interested in assumption may continue to increase in response to the current Administration's efforts to encourage assumption.

However, the two states who have successfully assumed the §404 program to date (New Jersey and Michigan), neither of which can serve as models for other states to replicate as a result of changes in CWA regulations and policies in recent years.

Some states have strong dredge and fill programs, but the majority are reliant on §401 certification as their only regulatory tool. For these states, going from no state program to assumption is a steep climb requiring the development of many elements of dredge and fill programs and changes in state statutes and regulations, as well as securing funding and staffing to run a new state program as it prepares to assume.

ASWM seeks to help states understand their responsibilities in the assumption relationship, provide them with tools to improve their assumption assessment processes and increase the number of complete assumption packages being submitted nationally. This project is designed to help states work towards understanding and developing the elements required to become eligible for assumption.

This project is designed to help states (and tribes) **work towards understanding and developing the elements required to become eligible for assumption.**

In this project, ASWM seeks to...

- * Help states understand their responsibilities in the assumption relationship;
- * Provide them with tools that may improve their assumption assessment processes; and
- * Increase the number of **complete** assumption packages being submitted nationally.



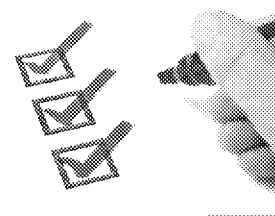
Funded primarily by an
EPA Wetland Program
Development Grant

*Focus on Peer-to-peer sharing
and meeting states/tribes where they are*

Project Overview: Goals

The primary goals of this project are to:

- address the more pressing state needs around assumption,
- develop resources to help enhance state capacity to assume the §404 Program, and
- train staff across the nation on these approaches and tools.

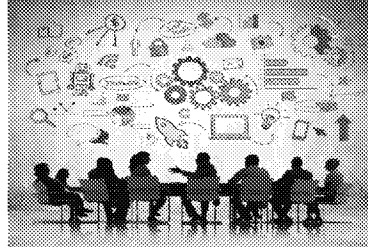


This project is designed to:

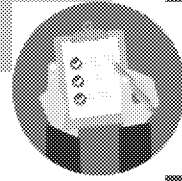
1. Expand the resources available to states so that they can explore the state's role in implementing the Clean Water Act;
2. Help states protect their watersheds and aquatic ecosystems (including wetlands); and
3. Provide technical assistance to help states (that are assuming the 404 program) develop programs that are consistent and transparent

Project Overview: Outputs

- A coordinated series of national workgroup calls to facilitate:
 - peer-to-peer sharing,
 - input on materials development and
 - advise ASWM on project elements.
- A set of support resources and examples for states seeking to conduct federal consistency analyses.
- A series of at least ten webinars on critical assumption topics.
- Facilitated national dialogue on key assumption issues (current and emerging)
- Presentations and work/training sessions at ASWM's State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meetings in 2019 and 2020.



Project Overview: Outcomes



States will:

- Better understand their responsibilities in the assumption relationship.
- Use tools developed by this project to improve their assumption assessment processes.
- Identify that the products provided by this project played a role in their decision-making in evaluating the feasibility of pursuing assumption.

Of the states that submit assumption applications...

- the completeness may be higher for those that participated in ASWM's project than those that did not.

The project will result in:

A stronger network of states interested in assumption...

- through opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing, troubleshooting, and development of common practices
- in ways that will facilitate improvements in the protection and management of wetland resources.

Stronger cooperative federalism between federal and state agencies in the area of wetland regulation will...

- provide continued protection of all waters that states seek to protect within their state borders.

Project Overview: Tasks

ASWM will:

- 1) Develop a national project workgroup to guide the project;
- 2) Identify potential guiding principles for states seeking to conduct federal consistency analyses;
- 3) Deliver webinars and in-person trainings on assumption topics;
- 4) Facilitate national dialogue between with states and tribes interested in assumption;
- 5) Create a web resource to share project information;
- 6) Disseminate information through ASWM's communications network; and
- 7) Develop and facilitate an assumption panel and work/training sessions at ASWM's Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meetings in 2019 & 2020.

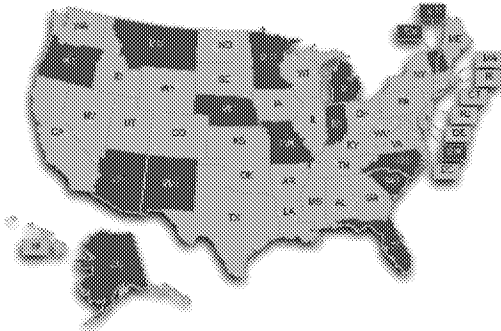


Project Overview: Timeline

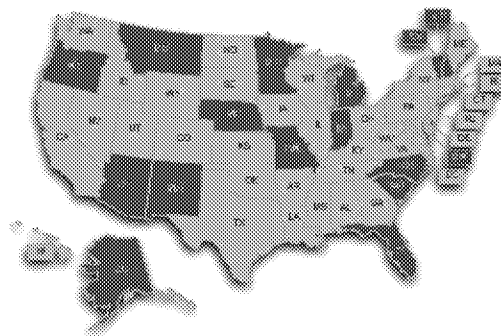
Assumption WPDG Project	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020
Form Workgroup	May								
Hold Workgroup Organizing Call	June								
Host Monthly Workgroup Calls		Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Report Out
Disseminate Monthly Call Summary Notes		Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Develop Webinar Topics List	Initial	Revisions	Revisions	Revisions	Semi-Final				
Plan/Invite Webinar Speakers									
Deliver Webinars		Webinar 1	Webinar 2	Webinars 3&4	Webinars 5	Webinars 6&7	Webinars 8 & 9	Webinar 10	
Post-process/Post Webinar Recordings			Webinar 1	Webinar 2	Webinars 3&4	Webinar 5	Webinar 6&7	Webinars 8&9	Webinar 10
Connect via National Discussion Thread		Connect	Connect	Connect	Connect	Connect	Connect	Connect	
Design and Develop Project Webpad	Initial								
Populate Project Webpad		Add Content	Add Content	Add Content	Add Content	Add Content	Add Content	Post Final Log	
Gather Assumption Application Information	Gather								
Review/Determine Assumption Application Info		Review/Select							
Post Basic Application Resources to Webpad			Post						
Research Fed Consistency Review Practices		Research	Research						
Develop Fed Cons. Review Guiding Principles			Determine	Determine					
Develop Fed Cons. Review Document (incl. LI)				Develop	Develop				
Share Fed. Cons. Review Document						Share	Share		
STFC Meetings	Work Session				Work Session				Report Out
Formative Evaluation	Def. Metrics	Dev Eval	Tracking	Tracking	Mid-Review	Tracking	Tracking	Prep for Final	
Summative Evaluation							Compile	Prep for Final	
Final Report								Outline	Submit

Workgroup Representation

Adams	Collis	NH DES
Bax	Stacia	MO DNR
Chemerys	Ruth	EPA OWOW
Clearwater	Denise	MD DE
Dupree	Gabriel	EPA Region 7
Higgins	Karen	NC DENR
Hobbs	Jasper	ACWA
Hurt	Steve	MT/MDE
Lapierre	Laura	VT DEC
Lemm	Les	MN BWSR
Link	Marty	NE DEQ
Lounds	Amy	MI DEQ
Leslsz	David	AZ DEQ
Preston	Heather	SC DHEC
Rach	Timothy	FL DEP
Robertson	Andy	Saint Mary's University
Ryan	Bill	Oregon DSL
Rypkema	Jim	AK DEC
Vallette	Yvonne	EPA Region 10
Wesson	Dolores	EPA HQ
Williams	Joe	Ecosystem Partners
Wolff	Brian	IN DEM



NH DES
MO DNR
EPA OWOW
MD DE
EPA Region 7
NC DENR
ACWA
MT/MDE
VT DEC
MN BWSR
NE DEQ
MI DEQ
AZ DEQ
SC DHEC
FL DEP
Saint Mary's University
Oregon DSL
AK DEC
EPA Region 10
EPA HQ
Ecosystem Partners
IN DEM



Workgroup Member Sharing

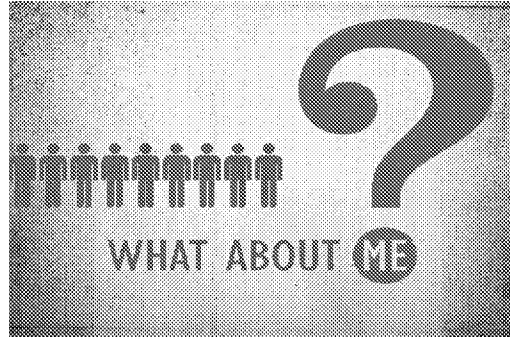
Two minutes per Workgroup member



- Your interest in assumption
- Reason(s) for being part of the group
 - What do you hope to get out of your participation?
- Anything you are specifically hoping to work on

Workgroup Expectations

- Participate workgroup calls monthly (1 hour/month)
- Review materials between meetings as needed (up to 1 hour/month)
- Share ideas and information from your experience and agency/organization to inform project work, as appropriate
- Review and provide feedback on final project products





Volunteer Log

Thank you for volunteering your time & expertise with ASWM. Please use our online Volunteer Log to enter your hours for each week you have volunteered on each project you are involved with.

- Step 1: Follow [THIS LINK](#) to ASWM's online volunteer log.
- Step 2: Enter your name & organization.
- Step 3: Select the project you want to log your hours for from the dropdown list.
- Step 4: Enter the start date of the week you volunteered & total number of hours you volunteered for the selected project for that week.
- Step 5: Enter a brief description of the tasks you completed during this time you volunteered
- Step 6: Check the box to certify that the hours entered are accurate & click submit.

NOTE: Volunteer hours must be entered for each project individually.

For assistance logging your volunteer hours please contact:
Laura Burchill at laura@aswm.org or 207-892-3399.

ASWM Volunteer Log

Thank you for entering your time & expertise with the Assumption of St. Mary's. Please use our online Volunteer Log to enter your hours for each week you have volunteered on each project you are involved with. If you have any questions about logging your volunteer hours please contact Laura Burchill at laura@aswm.org or 207-892-3399.

* Required

First Name *

Last Name *

Last Name *

First Name *

Organization *

First Name *

Project *

Project *

Volunteer Here *

Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Total volunteer hours completed on above date *

Sign (name)

Electronic Signature *

☐ I certify that I entered these hours to ASWM.

Submit

Project *

Choose

Assumption EPA Grant

ASWM Board of Directors

BLM Beaver Watershed

George C. Brown Waterway Management

EPA Region 10 Tribal

State Regulatory Capacity EPA Grant

Urban Waters EPA Grant

Project Contacts



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